

**ABSTRACT**

Mechanical or Chemical pulp is treated with about 0.01 weight % to about 5 weight % of a Mixture. The Mixture is water; diethylenetriaminepentakis(methyl)phosphonic acid or its

5 known salts; polyacrylic acid or its known salts; and optionally one or more inert compounds.

This Mixture acts to either maintain the brightness level of the pulp at the target level or to increase the brightness level of the pulp. In addition the Mixture allows for maintaining the pulp at the target level of brightness even when the amounts of other ingredients, such as hydrogen peroxide, hydrosulfite, sodium silicate and magnesium, that are typically added to the pulp, are

10 reduced.